

London Schools' Athletic Association

Selection Policy for London team for English Schools' Cross Country Championships

London Schools' Athletic Association feels that it is important that athletes, schools, parents and coaches understand the selection policy for the London teams attending the English Schools Cross-Country Championships. Our aim is for an open and fair selection policy which balances rewarding those who have done well at the London Championships with selecting a strong London team to compete at the National Championships.

- All athletes selected for the London team must be in full time education at a school affiliated to the London Schools Athletic Association.
- The LSAA Cross-Country Championships (normally held annually on the first Wednesday in February) serve as the main selection competition for the London team. The first 12-15 finishers in each age group are given a letter on the day telling them they are being considered for the team and should complete and return the forms by the due date. The first four finishers in each age group are automatically offered a place in the London team but must still complete and return the forms by the due date.
- The remaining four team places and reserve places are selected as follows:
Placing in the LSAA Cross-Country Champs IN ADDITION to performances in other bona fide cross-country or road race competitions during the season prior to the date of the LSAA championships – such as London Youth Games, Mini Marathon, County cross-country championships, SEAA cross-country championships, Club League matches. This will permit athletes who have under-performed on the day or have not been able to attend the LSAA Championships for a valid reason (eg exam, university interview, illness, injury) the opportunity to be selected, although an athlete who could not compete because of illness or injury would have to prove fitness if selected. Any athlete who wishes to be considered for a place in the London team and who was not placed in the top 4 at the LSAA Championships, must request an electronic copy of the “consideration for selection” form from the competition organiser; then complete and return it within 48 hours of the day of the competition. The request can come from the athlete themselves, PE teacher, parent or coach but must be completed by the athlete and parent/guardian.

In addition to the above, the selectors may decide that previous experience or progress during the current season will also be taken into consideration – for example an athlete who has competed on several occasions at English Schools for the London team and who is in year 13 **may** be deemed to have greater experience at this level than someone who is just developing at this age.

Athletes will be required to complete forms confirming their availability for selection and return them on the day of the London Championships or electronically by a due date. Failure to complete and return the forms by the due date **may** mean that the athlete is not selected – even if they were placed 1st in the LSAA Championship.

Note for those selected for the London team - the position in the pen at ESAA championships is primarily determined by finishing position at LSAA championships.